

Message Text

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ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 RSC-01 IO-10

ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-05

OES-03 DPW-01 AID-05 /109 W

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R 221445Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3746

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL JEC PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 346

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PARM ICRC VN VS PDIP WMO SW

SUBJECT: PRG STATUS AT LAW OF WAR AND WMO CONGRESSES

REF: (A) STATE 008673; (B) STATE 010509; (C) STOCKHOLM 3216

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFS A AND B,
POLITICAL COUNSELOR CALLED ON MFA LEGAL ADVISOR HANS BLIX
TO DISCUSS SWEDISH POSITION ON PRG AT BOTH SECOND SESSION
OF DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON REAFFIRMATION AND DEVELOPMENT
OF INTERNATIONAL LAW APPLICABLE IN ARMED CONFLICTS AND AT
7TH WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (WMO) CONGRESS.

2. BLIX SAID GOS HAD NOT RPT NOT MADE FINAL DECISION ON
MATTER. HE EXPRESSED HIS OWN VIEW THAT ON PROCEDURAL
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QUESTION, PARA 4 OF RULE 35, CALLING FOR SIMPLE MAJORITY

VOTE, SHOULD APPLY.

3. BLIX SAID IT WAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER GOS WOULD CONTINUE TO ABSTAIN ON INVITATION OF VOTE RE INVITATION TO PRG. HE SAID GOVERNMENT WAS SENSITIVE TO LEFTIST DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURES TO SHOW "LESS FORMALISTIC" APPROACH TO QUESTION OF INVITATION TO PRG TO ATTEND A "HUMANITARIAN CONFERENCE."

4. REFERRING TO US POSITION THAT PRG IS NOT A STATE AND HAS NO ATTRIBUTES OF GOVERNMENT, BLIX REPLIED THAT HE HAS BEEN STUDYING THIS QUESTION CAREFULLY, AND HAD NOTED THAT ORIGINAL GENEVA CONVENTION REFERRED TO "POWERS" AND NOT TO "STATES." CONTINUING, HE SAID GOS WOULD IDEALLY LIKE TO ACHIEVE A "CONSENSUS" ON QUESTION OF PRG PARTICIPATION, ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS WAS UNLIKELY.

5. BLIX REFERRED TO REPORT THAT PLO HAD RECENTLY SUBMITTED INSTRUMENTS OF ADHERENCE TO GENEVA CONVENTION TO SWISS GOVERNMENT. PLO MOVE, BLIX SAID, SUGGESTS ARAB STATES MAY PLAN EFFORT TO OBTAIN INVITATION TO PLO TO ATTEND LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE. IF PLO INVITATION WERE LINKED TO INVITATION TO PRG, THIS WOULD COMPLICATE QUESTION FOR GOS, WHICH WOULD NOT FAVOR INVITATION TO PLO, SINCE THIS COULD CREATE "DANGEROUS PRECEDENT" FOR FUTURE.

6. WITH REGARD TO WMO CONGRESS (REF B), BLIX SAID GOS HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO SUPPORT OBSERVER STATUS FOR PRG, ADDING THAT HE THOUGHT GOS REPLY TO MAIL BALLOT HAD ALREADY BEEN SENT. POLCOUNS EXPRESSED REGRET THAT GOS HAD SUPPORTED PRG.

7. COMMENT: GOS POSITION, AS SET FORTH BY BLIX, SHOWS FURTHER SLIPPAGE SINCE MATTER LAST DISCUSSED WITH HIM IN SUMMER OF 1974 (REF C).

WHILE FINAL GOS DECISION WILL BE BASED ON POLITICAL, RATHER THAN LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS, GOS OFFICIALS APPEAR TO BE SEEKING LEGAL JUSTIFICATION FOR SWITCH IN POSITION FROM ABSTENTION TO SUPPORT OF PRG INVITATION.

BLIX MENTIONED THAT HE WOULD BE MEETING ACTING
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LEGAL ADVISOR GEORGE ALDRICH NEXT WEEK IN LONDON.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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